

**REMARKS**

Claims 20-61 are pending in the application. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-19 and added claims 51-61. Claim 27 has been amended to address the Examiner's concern.

The claims are directed to systems and methods for displaying graphical indicators, instead of numeric or textual data, based on user-defined conditions. By replacing the numeric and/or textual data, which may take significant mental analysis to evaluate, with quickly recognizable visual images, users and viewers are able to more quickly identify status, trends, or groupings of data.

Claim 20 recites a system including a display that displays one of data and a graphical indicator based on a display signal. Claim 26 recites the step of displaying one of data and a graphical indicator depending on the outcome of comparing data to graphical indicator conditions. Claim 38 recites the step of displaying text data or a graphical indicator based on a display signal in a cache. Newly added claims 51-61 recite outputting the graphical indicator instead of the data value. Thus, all of the claims recite either displaying data or a graphical indicator based on a display signal or some other data comparison.

The Examiner has rejected claims 20-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi and Weise and claims 26-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashi, Weise, and Sonoyana. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Hayashi describes a printing technique for converting a monochrome document to a color document using a "cell value-color correspondence table." The correspondence table maps values to colors. When converting the document for printing, Hayashi's technique uses the correspondence table to decide which colors should be used for which values when converting the document. The document is then printed.

The Examiner recognizes, however, that Hayashi does not disclose the displaying a "graphical indicator," instead of a value. To cure this deficiency, the Examiner relies on

Weise, which describes a technique for displaying a map of real estate with sale prices indicated by different symbols. For example, a square may represent a sale price between \$180,001 and \$190,000.

It is the Examiner's position that

it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Hayashi and Wiese before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the graphical indicators taught by Hayashi, such that they comprise symbols which are displayed in place of the data, as is done by Wiese. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a combination, because the addition of such symbols may be used to depict more general or more specific trends in the table data, as is taught by Wiese.

(Office Action, April 7, 2004, p. 5.) Applicants respectfully disagree that there would be any advantage to combining Weise's graphical indicators with Hayashi technique. More fundamentally, the Examiner is suggesting that Hayashi be modified in a way that would be contrary to its purpose.

First, Hayashi is directed to adding emphasis to a document, such as color to a monochrome document. It is one thing to change background color or font of a document, but quite another thing to change the underlying data when printing a document. The Examiner is suggesting that it would have been obvious for one to have, for example, replaced the value of "2000" in the 1993 Tokyo cell of Hayashi's Figure 6(a) with a square or a circle as used in Weise. Applicants have never heard of a printing process in which the underlying data is actually modified, as opposed to just colored, before it is printed. Indeed, such modification would be repugnant to the printing process as it is generally known.

Second, and more importantly, there would be no advantage to replacing Hayashi's coloring with Weise's square or a circle. The Examiner suggests that a graphical indicator could be used to show a trend, but Hayashi's coloring could be also used to show such a trend. Moreover, since Hayashi still shows the value in a colored cell, the viewer would

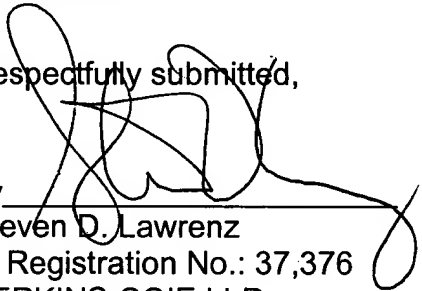
have the benefit of seeing the trend and the detailed data. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's position, there would be no advantage to combining Hayashi and Weise.

Since there would be no advantage to combining Weise with Hayashi, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to do so. Moreover, there is no suggestion in the prior art to combine the references. Therefore, the Examiner has improperly combined Hayashi and Weise.

Based upon the above remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any question or believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Dated: July 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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